

instructor and girl's basketball coach at Hurricane High School. He was always available to read aloud in the elementary schools and to attend extracurricular events to recognize students.

Serving the community as mayor of Hurricane for 40 years, recently Mr. Peak has brought about a new \$1.8 million municipal complex, a \$10.6 million upgrade to the regional wastewater treatment facility, and water improvements to a system that has received the 2006 Drinking Silver Award.

Perhaps Mr. Peak's greatest accomplishment is his bond he unwaveringly nourishes with his family. Mayor Peak and his wife, Gloria, are enjoying a marriage of 52 years. They are blessed with three children, five grandchildren, and two great grandchildren.

Through the leadership of Mayor F. Raymond Peak, the city of Hurricane has experienced growth and prosperity. His good works have been enjoyed by generations past and will continue to benefit generations to come.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me and the community in expressing our thanks and to honor Mr. Peak's accomplishments and commitment to public service. His commendable service serves as an attribute which we should all strive to emulate as we attempt to make the world a better place. As he leaves the mayor's office, we extend our best wishes for joy and happiness in the months and years ahead.

HONORING REVEREND FREDERICK
"JERRY" STREETS

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2007

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join the many family, friends, and community leaders who have gathered to pay tribute to one of New Haven's most outstanding religious leaders and one of my friends, Reverend Frederick "Jerry" Streets. There is no doubt that Reverend Streets has touched the lives of many in the Yale community and beyond. Though he will be missed, the legacy he leaves will continue to inspire others for years to come.

Today marks the end of an era as we bid farewell to a real community treasure. Reverend Streets, the first African-American and Baptist to hold the position of University chaplain, will conclude 15 years of service to Yale since being appointed to this position in 1992. Under the University's term limit rules for chaplaincy, he must now pass on his legacy to a newly appointed chaplain. Reverend Streets' commitment to service through religious leadership has been unwavering and his involvement, not only with his chaplaincy and pastoral duties at Yale, but with his congregation at University Church, has been essential to its spiritual growth and prosperity. He expanded the multi-faith dialogue at Yale and had a deep sense of his social responsibility to the surrounding residents of the New Haven community.

During his tenure, Reverend Streets did spear-head a rapid growth of religious diversity within the student population. His natural gravitation toward tolerance for all ethnicities and religious freedoms began as a boy grow-

ing up on the South Side of Chicago. Here, amid much diversity, he learned the need for acceptance of others which shaped his character and influenced his professional life. Perhaps best known for his development of Yale's undergraduate multi-faith council—a group with faiths ranging from Protestant to Baha'i—he promoted discussions between students of different faiths and helped other chaplains to grasp an understanding of a diverse student population.

In addition to his work in our community, Reverend Streets has represented Yale across the globe by lecturing or presenting workshops on issues of global justice and mental health. He has traveled worldwide to places such as Bosnia, Cuba, and West Africa, and served as a delegate to the first global conference of religious leaders to convene at the United Nations.

As a spiritual guide, he has nourished the souls of many—often providing much needed comfort in the hardest of personal trials. It was evident through his work that he had a strong devotion and compassion to helping many Yale students restore their faith and bring a sense of balance back to their lives. There is no better example of living faith with commitment and dignity. He will be sorely missed and we cannot thank him enough.

It is with great pride that I stand today to join his wife Annette, his children, family, friends, and the Yale community to extend my deepest thanks and appreciation to Reverend Jerry Streets for all of the good work he has done. May God bless him and keep him well as he continues in his mission of peace, compassion, hope and tolerance.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF VAL McCOMBIE, FORMER AM-
BASSADOR OF BARBADOS AND
FORMER ASSISTANT SECRETARY
GENERAL OF THE ORGANISA-
TION OF AMERICAN STATES

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay honor to a great man, Ambassador Val McCombie, of Barbados and to enter into the record an article from Carib News by Tony Best titled, *Diplomat Who Paved The Way For Others*. He passed away after a lengthy illness and was funeralized on May 9, 2007.

Val McCombie inspired me in so many ways. He was a man who had a commanding presence, but was not commanding at all. He was powerful, but gentle. Further, he was well respected, articulate, and giving.

Serving as a public servant was the calling on his life. Early in his career, he spent a great deal of his time teaching French and Spanish to young people. Pursuing the desire to represent the people of Barbados, he became the Ambassador to the United States. Serving as an ambassador provided him an awesome opportunity to bridge a gap between Caribbean nations and Latin American nations. His great ability to lead and serve paved the way for other public servants, some of which he mentored.

I'm honored to have known him and feel blessed to have had the opportunity to learn

from such a dignified man. I urge young people and my colleagues to learn more about his life and contribution to Barbados.

DIPLOMAT WHO PAVED THE WAY FOR OTHERS
(By Tony Best)

Two diplomats who took turns occupying the same Ambassadorial office offered different assessments of the man who had set the standard they later followed. "He built a career strengthening relationships" between CARICOM and "the rest of Latin America," said Michael King, Barbados' current top diplomat to the U.S. and the Organization of American States.

Sir Courtney Blackman, King's immediate predecessor, succinctly summed up the diplomat's career in a different way. "He was an Ambassador's Ambassador," said Sir Courtney. Both men were reflecting on the life and career of Valerie Theodore McCombie, Barbados' first resident Ambassador in Washington, who later became the first person from the English-speaking Caribbean to be elected Assistant Secretary-General of the OAS, a position he held from 1980-1990. McCombie died in Washington on Friday after a lengthy illness.

Called "Val" by his friends and colleagues, the linguist and educator who once taught French and Spanish to students in Barbados and St. Kitts-Nevis, English to Venezuelans and French-speaking students in Martinique and France and both languages to Americans and Ghanaians in high schools in the U.S. and Africa used his facility with language to advance the Caribbean's cause on the international stage. He did that during a diplomatic career that began in 1967 and ended in the early 1990s.

Along the way, he served as Barbados' Ambassador in Caracas, the first diplomat from the country to do so; its non-resident envoy to Brazil; and Alternate-Governor to the Inter-American Development Bank.

Born in Trinidad and Tobago on April 1, 1920, McCombie received his early education in his birthplace and Barbados, before he went on to London University in England which awarded him a Bachelor's degree in mediaeval and modern languages; and later the University of Bordeaux in France and the University of California at Los Angeles. As Barbados' first resident Ambassador in Washington McCombie was his country's eyes and ears in the U.S. capital and in Latin America at a time when Caribbean nations were just beginning to extend their diplomatic links to Latin America.

Whether it was at the OAS headquarters or along ambassador's row, McCombie was at home, so to speak. "He had a tremendous presence and in any room he stood out, tall, handsome and very comfortable with strangers," Sir Courtney said. But even more than that, he earned the respect of the Latins, who were skeptical of the interest the small English-speaking nations with a British orientation were showing in the OAS, first with Trinidad and Tobago's membership in the Western Hemisphere body. Next was Barbados. "The respect was tremendous and it came from all of the ambassadors and their governments," added Sir Courtney who served in Washington in the 1990s. "It was that respect that enabled him to become the Assistant Secretary-General of the OAS."

By any objective assessment, McCombie performed his OAS duties with aplomb, ever mindful though of the gap in influence between the Secretary-General and the Assistant. Still, he paved the way for Chris Thomas, the Trinidad and Tobago diplomat, who succeeded him. His ability to play the diplomatic game with ease and his record of getting results allowed him to serve as a role model for many of the young people in the Caribbean who aspired to diplomatic careers.